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KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Public Health Inspector

FOR

1956

KIDDERMINSTER
RU RAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1956

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR A. PARDOE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR H. DOOLITTLE, C.C.

COUNCILLOR C. BLOUNT

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 „ H. HINGLEY, J.P.
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 „ G. F. PRATT
 „ E. SMITH
 „ J. WARDLE, J.P.
 „ T. O. WILSON

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

R.W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer :

R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.

(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)

Assistant : C. G. KNOTT

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk :

Miss J. E. MANTLE

Rats and Mice Destruction Officer : E. LEE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the year 1956.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid 1956	12,060
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1956	3,776
Rateable Value	£111,618
Sum represented by a penny rate	£456

Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in Kidderminster, and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics.

					1956	1955		
Births.					Males	Females	Total	Total
(a)	Live Births :	Legitimate	...	87	68	155	176	
		Illegitimate	...	3	3	6	4	
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated popula-								
	tion	13.3	15.1	
Birth rate for England and Wales					15.7	15.0
					Males	Females	Total	Total
(b)	Still Births :	Legitimate	...	2	1	3	3	
		Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	1	
Deaths.					Males	Females	Total	Total
(a)	No. registered for District	...	57	69	126	112		
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated								
	resident population	...	...	...	10.4	9.4
Death rate for England and Wales					11.7	11.7
(b)	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	17	18
	Deaths for Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0	0
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0	1
(c)	Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	0	0
(d)	Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age)	...	...	...	2	3
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :								
	All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	12.4	16.6
	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live							
	births	...	...	...	12.9	17.04
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales								
	per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	23.8	24.9

Cause of Death.								M.	F.	
1.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System						...	...	3	—
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis						...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Diseases						...	...	—	1
4.	Diphtheria						...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough						...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections						...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis						...	...	—	—
8.	Measles ...						...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases						...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach						...	...	—	2
11.	„ „ Lung, Bronchus						...	...	5	—
12.	„ „ Breast						...	...	—	5
13.	„ „ Uterus						...	...	—	—
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms						...	...	3	2
15.	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia						...	...	—	2
16.	Diabetes						...	...	—	—
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System						...	...	8	14
18.	Coronary Disease Angina						...	...	6	3
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease						...	...	—	—
20.	Other Heart Disease						...	...	11	12
21.	Other Circulatory Disease						...	...	1	3
22.	Influenza						...	...	1	1
23.	Pneumonia						...	...	—	4
24.	Bronchitis						...	...	6	4
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory System						...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum						...	...	2	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea						...	...	—	2
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis						...	...	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate						...	...	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion						...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations						...	...	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases						...	...	6	7
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents						...	...	—	—
34.	All other accidents						...	...	—	4
35.	Suicide						...	...	2	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War						...	...	—	—
								—	—	
All causes								57	69	

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and of Miss J. E. Mantle as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and operates from Hayley Green Hospital.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, and operates from Kidderminster.

Nursing at Home.

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses and one Health Visitor also deal with portions of the Area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are five Infant Welfare Centres in the Area — at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, and Blakedown, where Immunisation and Vaccination is carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the Area.

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area, but some patients are admitted direct or transferred to All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, which is most difficult of access to their relatives

For Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

Tuberculosis.

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment where possible. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6-30 p.m., Wednesday at 10 a.m., and Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Committee.

Venereal Disease.

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council own approximately 85 miles of water pipes, and the water in the Rural District is supplied by :

- (1) The Council's Borehole at Cookley.
- (2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct.
- (3) The Stourbridge Water Board.
- (4) The East Worcestershire Water Board.
- (5) The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.
- (6) Kidderminster Corporation.

The supply is satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

The Public Health Inspector submitted 42 samples of water from the six main sources for chemical and bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES TO HOUSES IN THE RURAL DISTRICT

Parish	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, e.g., Wells, Springs, etc.	
	Direct to Houses		By Means of Standpipe			
	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population		
Wolverley	998	3,499	185	581	53	169
Upper Arley	109	381	119	380	107	341
Ribbesford	6	19	—	—	18	57
Churchill and Blake- down	343	1,115	—	—	28	89
Rock	441	1,547	158	505	99	310
Broome	47	150	—	—	22	70
Stone	80	261	—	—	50	150
Rushock	24	84	—	—	28	98
Kidderminster Foreign	87	280	207	662	74	236
Chaddesley Corbett ...	350	1,240	47	144	48	173
Totals	2,485	8,576	716	2,272	527	1,693

The above figures are approximate. Included in the 716 houses supplied from standpipes are several areas of bungalow development, and camping sites.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Work has progressed satisfactorily with the connection of houses to the new sewers in Wolverley and Cookley. By the end of the year the vast majority of properties had been dealt with.

The improvement in the hygienic conditions in these villages is so marked that it underlines the deplorable conditions existing in Chaddesley Corbett. It is hoped that the amended plan for Chaddesley Corbett will soon be available and put out to tender.

In areas likely to remain unsewered further progress has been made in conversion to water carriage to efficient private disposal plants.

SUMMARY OF SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Parish	Houses connected to a Public Sewer	Population Served	No. of Houses with		
			Pails	Cess Pits, etc.	Private Installations
Wolverley ...	892	3,109	37	46	45
Upper Arley ...	29	100	82	152	64
Ribbesford ...	—	—	12	12	12
Churchill and Blakedown ...	221	699	32	59	80
Rock ...	32	102	151	401	293
Broome ...	—	—	4	15	60
Stone ...	12	38	32	73	70
Rushock ...	4	14	30	30	10
Kidderminster Foreign ...	16	51	211	90	77
Chaddesley Corbett ...	102	357	115	242	193
Totals ...	1,308	4,470	706	1,120	904

All shacks, etc., have been included as dwellings. Few of them have drainage arrangements.

River Pollution.

The condition of the River Stour remains unchanged since my last report and the amount of foam appearing at the weirs is an indication that the sewage effluent forms a great part of the total flow.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	489
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	501
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 & 1932	205
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	211
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	112

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	62
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

A.—Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :	
(a)	By Owners	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :	
	(a) By Owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	11
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	13

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been made fit	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding.

As a result of the Council's progressive building programme, the number of cases of overcrowding in the Area has been reduced to very small proportions.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases. Immunisations against Diphtheria.

Despite our efforts many children remain un-immunised at least until school age and parents must be made to realise the serious risk of the return of diphtheria as a killing disease if they do not take advantage of the protection provided.

A further 112 children under five years and 22 children from 5 to 15 years of age were given primary courses of treatment and 123 were given booster doses.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year 80 children under one year, 7 children from one to four years, 2 children from five to fifteen years and 4 persons over fifteen years were given primary vaccination. 3 children from five to fifteen and 7 persons over fifteen were re-vaccinated.

Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1956 are set out in the following table.

Disease	AGE IN YEARS							Total No. of Cases	No. of Cases Admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths
	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25 and over			
Scarlet Fever ...	—	3	4	11	3	—	—	21	5	—
Measles ...	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	6	1	10	—	—	—	17	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	19	22	—	4
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	—	14	8	24	4	—	23	73	5	4

Tuberculosis.

Six cases were notified during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	1	3	1	1	3	—	—	—

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Conclusion.

The existing sanitary services in the area have proved satisfactory.

Good progress has been made in the condemnation of unfit properties and the rehousing of the occupants. The Council have given a good deal of time to the consideration of each case and have been very willing to accept any really sound scheme for the reconditioning of such houses by their owners.

A considerable number of properties once thought to be beyond repair at reasonable cost have been reconditioned by owner-occupiers. As a result the general standard of this type of house in the District has risen.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Public Health Inspector
FOR
1956

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat.

Four slaughterhouses have been in use during the year.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	229	4	29	984	531
Number inspected	195	4	24	716	475
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	35	2	Nil	16	21
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	178	50	Nil	2.2	4.4
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	2	Nil	Nil	14
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	4.6	50	Nil	Nil	2.9

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned.

Moribund and badly bled	119 lbs.
Distomatosis	112 lbs.
Pneumonia	38 lbs.
Tuberculosis	307 lbs.
Injury	97 lbs.
Total	673 lbs.

Milk.

There has been further evidence of the advantages gained from the wholesale pasteurisation of milk supplies. There has been no concrete evidence of the alleged sale of loose milk.

Efforts have been made to educate the consumers to clean thoroughly empty bottles before return to the retailer. This still remains a problem, but there is evidence of an improvement

Other Foods.

The following details show the position with regard to food premises :

Type	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Act	Inspections
General Provisions	46	—	92
Cafes	7	—	51
Hotels and other licensed premises	53	—	98
Works Canteens	1	—	4
Dairies	22	—	69
Mobile Canteens	4	—	29
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	18
Ice Cream Retailers	30	27	62

It is pleasing to report that our food traders and handlers have a high sense of their responsibilities with regard to food hygiene. Wherever practicable they have carried out our requirements with regard to structural alterations and provision and maintenance of equipment. Proprietors of premises where meals are prepared and sold welcome inspections and ask for suggestions to improve conditions.

A problem which appears to be on the increase arises from mobile canteens. Whilst the majority are scrupulously clean, there are a number which are far from satisfactory and their migratory habits make it difficult to follow them up efficiently. They move overnight and leave quantities of litter. Fortunately co-operation with neighbouring Districts is good and much has been done to control this problem.

Another problem which has received attention is refreshment stalls at one-day functions. e-g. point-to-point races, flower shows and garden fetes. Whilst in the main every precaution is taken by those responsible, the greatest difficulty is still the provision of an adequate water supply for washing up. We have been successful in arranging for far greater supplies to be made available in several cases.

A continuous campaign of personal contact with traders and staffs on all matters relating to clean food was maintained.

Ice Cream.

Having only one small manufacturer of ice cream, the vast majority of ice-cream sold in the district comes from large concerns in other areas. This ice-cream is almost invariably supplied to the customer in cartons or wrappings.

It has not been necessary to draw attention to any infringements during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of unexpired licences in force	25
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BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register, December, 1956	4
Inspections	16

Contraventions Remedied :

Limewashing	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dirty Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This service is carried out by three lorries. One S.D. Freighter with a crew of three, one Morris Commercial with a crew of three and a Contractor's lorry manned by the Contractor and his son.

The S.D. Freighter covers the parishes of Wolverley, Cookley, Churchill and Blakedown and Broome and gives a fortnightly service to these built up areas. The Morris Commercial deals with the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Stone and Rushock and gives a fortnightly service. The parishes of Rock, Upper Arley, Kidderminster Foreign and Ribbesford are dealt with by the Contractor.

An ever present problem is the provision of adequate land for tipping.

The following are the details of the number of loads dealt with :

Tipped at Wolverley	...	...	...	...	1,542 loads
Tipped at Lodgeford Hill	...	...	...	...	22 „
Tipped at Trimpley	...	...	...	...	260 „
Tipped at Rock	...	...	...	...	294 „
					<hr/> 2,118 loads <hr/>

All these tips are regularly sprayed with D.D.T. and other insecticides and little nuisance has arisen from flies, crickets, etc

Night Soil Collection.

A weekly collection of night soil is made from Chaddesley Corbett Village. The work is done by a local contractor, who uses a motor lorry provided with suitable bins for the carriage of the night soil. No complaints have been received with regard to the manner in which this work is done. The tenants of the houses concerned are to be congratulated on the way in which they cope with the situation and there has been no cause to draw their attention to any matter during the year.

The Council's proposed Sewerage Scheme for the village will render this service unnecessary, but as a temporary measure the system is as efficient as possible.

Number of pail closets emptied per week : 87.

Cesspools.

Nuisances from overflowing cesspools have again been dealt with by the use of a hired cesspool emptying vehicle as and when necessary. Cesspools have been emptied at the owner's expense. This problem is getting less as the years go by, mainly due the Council's progress with sewerage schemes and there are not sufficient homes requiring the service to warrant it being provided regularly.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Rural District is very well supplied with water from several sources. Bacteriological samples are regularly taken and when necessary chemical analyses are made. Details of samples taken are as follows :

				Fit	Unfit	Total
<i>Public Supplies Mains</i>						
Cookley Borehole	...	...	...	14	—	14
Elan Valley	...	...	...	8	—	8
Stourbridge Water Board	...	...	...	7	—	7
South Staffs. Water Board	...	...	...	8	—	8
East Worcs. Water Board	...	...	...	3	—	3
Kidderminster Corporation	...	...	...	2	—	2
				42	—	42
<i>Private Supplies</i>						
Wells and Springs	...	...	...	13	16	29

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1956.

Particulars of Visits and Inspections are as follows :

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings ...	...	...	...	...	191
Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	69
Fried Fish Premises ...	...	...	...	...	12
Infectious Disease ...	...	...	...	...	31
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	216
Premises where animals are kept ...	...	...	...	...	74
Schools ...	...	...	...	...	14
Water Courses ...	...	...	...	...	56
Water Supply ...	...	...	...	...	101
Workshops ...	...	...	...	...	4
Provision of Dustbins ...	...	...	...	...	61
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	842
Refuse Collection ...	...	...	...	...	1,561

SANITARY WORK.

Interior of Houses.

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants ...	...	6
Verminous houses dealt with ...	...	4

Yards and Outbuildings.

Dirty yards and W.C's cleansed by tenants ...	...	9
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc. ...	...	216

Drainage.

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction ...	...	161
Defective drains repaired ...	...	62
New drains provided ...	...	54
Overflowing cesspools cleansed and repaired ...	...	115
Glazed sinks provided ...	...	42
Cesspools abolished ...	...	27

Water Closets.

New Water Closets erected ...	...	16
Foul and obstructed W.C's cleansed ...	...	29
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired ...	...	101
Water Closets repaired ...	...	63
Defective water supply to W.C's remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.) ...	...	91
Conversions :		
Conversions of privies to W.C.s ...	...	4
Conversions of pail closets to W'C's ...	...	27

Privies and Pail Closets.

New pans provided to pail closets	31
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Ashpits and Dustbins.

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins ...	...	61
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants ...	...	31
Ashpits abolished ...	...	5

Various.

Nuisances from improper keeping of animals	31
--	-----	----

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.**Infestation Order, 1943.**

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

Number of infestations dealt with at private houses ...	221
Number of infestations dealt with on business premises	9
Number of other infestations dealt with ...	13
Number of complaints received ...	92

Sewers.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the sewers at Blakedown and Wolverley were test baited during the year with satisfactory results.

Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee.

The co-operation between this Committee and ourselves has been excellent, and our thanks are due to all concerned.

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

HOUSING.

The housing record of the Council has always been excellent and during the year a further 74 houses were erected, making a total of 636 since the war.

Work still progresses in the re-conditioning of cottages, and the Grant Scheme has been of great assistance, 23 applications receiving favourable consideration.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Your Public Health Inspector also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Inspector, and the following figures are of interest :

Number of Premises licensed for Storage :

Private ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
For Re-sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Total								65
Total fees received								£38 2s. 6d.

It was not necessary to draw the attention of any Licencee to any serious infringements of the Acts.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Public Health Inspector.

